

From: John G. Miller
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The antitrust suit against Microsoft has not had an adverse affect upon my technology-based company as of yet, but if this suit were to continue, it would surely affect it. In a worst-case scenario, if Microsoft were broken up, I could go out of business, even though I am not employed by Microsoft. There are probably thousands of businesses like mine that would face the same problem. The settlement that was reached between Microsoft and Department of Justice promises to prevent any adverse effects if litigation is stopped.

Under the settlement, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against any computer makers if they ship software that would compete with its Windows operating system. Microsoft has also agreed to make all future versions of Windows to be compatible with non-Microsoft products. The settlement also establishes a three-person "Technical Committee" that will monitor Microsoft's compliance to it.

I also do not want to see Microsoft forced to open the code for Windows* to the world. I would not want to be forced to buy my software from India, Germany, Japan or China. If you think that opening the source code to Windows* will help Microsoft's competitors, what do you think it will do to those same competitors when they have to compete with companies in other countries.

To continue litigation is to squander all the time and money spent formulating this settlement. The government must not waste such scarce resources amid recession. I urge you confirm this settlement and allow the industry to move ahead.

Sincerely,

John G Miller

President